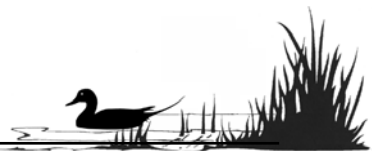


Watershed Observer



NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT LAND TRUST - VOLUME 23 NO. 1, WINTER 2009

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CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

| |
|--|
| FEBRUARY 21 – WINTER HIKE AT DOUBLE OAK FARM |
| FEBRUARY 28 – VINE VINDICATOR WORK DAY |
| MARCH 14 – HIKING TRAIL MAINTENANCE DAY |
| MARCH 28 – VINE VINDICATOR WORK DAY |

SEE [HTTP://ACL TWEB.ORG](http://acltweb.org) OR PAGE 8 FOR FULL CALENDAR AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

ACL T'S 2008 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

At this writing, we are preparing for the Annual Membership Meeting on February 7, 2009. In case you were unable to attend the meeting, here are some of the highlights of our accomplishments in 2008:

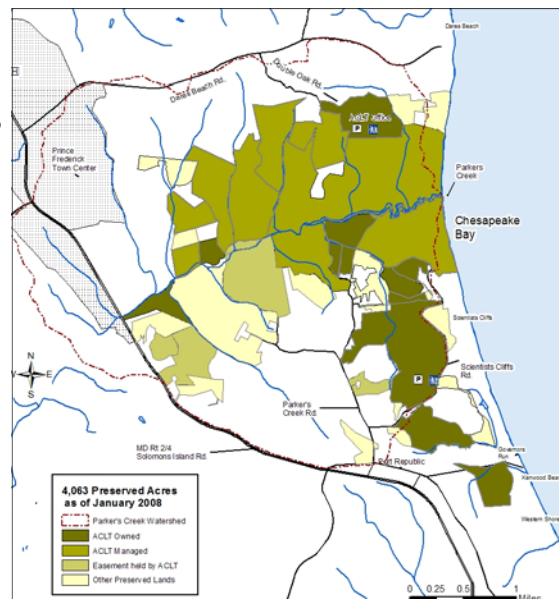
New Five-Year Plan Adopted

In 2008, the ACL T Board of Directors reviewed its progress under the Five-Year Plan for the period 2004–2008, held a board retreat to discuss new initiatives for the coming five years, and drafted a new Five-Year Plan for 2009–2013. Copies of the plan will be distributed at the Annual Membership Meeting and are available upon request to the ACL T office. The board reaffirmed our mission statement with minor changes. It now reads:

We promote land conservation throughout Calvert County, Maryland. We provide environmentally sustainable public access to preserved properties for educational, scientific, recreational and cultural purposes. We protect the natural and cultural resources of the Parkers Creek and Governors Run watersheds for the benefit of this and future generations.

The board also reaffirmed our commitment to continue to preserve available strategically located properties within the Parkers Creek and Governors Run watersheds and our commitment to be good stewards of the lands we own as well as those entrusted to us by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR). New initiatives were prioritized by the board. Initiatives that were considered “mandatory” by the board included: 1) **grow the membership** of the ACL T by increasing local awareness of ACL T and its mission as well as by sponsoring educational, stewardship and social events and activities to connect more people with our preserved land and to support the ACL T mission into the future; 2) optimize the facilities that ACL T uses to support our land management and outreach activities by preparing and implementing a **master facility plan** of existing and proposed facilities, incorporating energy efficiency and environmental sustainability into the design of any new buildings; and 3)

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)





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Published quarterly by the American Chestnut Land Trust. The ACLT is dedicated to the preservation of Calvert County, Maryland's Natural and Historical Resources. Since it was established in 1986, ACLT has preserved over 3,000 acres. We own 911 acres, manage 1,780 acres owned by the State of Maryland, and hold conservation easements on 360 privately-owned acres.

Editors: Ellen and David Farr

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Coordinator
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From the President's Desk ...

Land Trust Accreditation

Introduction to Land Trust Accreditation – Not long ago, the public perception of land trusts was badly damaged. Widely reported accounts of unethical practices such as inflated easement appraisals and insider land transactions took a serious toll. In the wake of this, the Land Trust Alliance (LTA), an association of more than 1100 land trusts, developed the Land Trust Accreditation program. Accreditation is available to all land trusts and is designed to support the pursuit of:

Excellence – in its operational programs, policies and procedures;

Trust – by providing members, donors, partners, the public and governmental agencies assurance that it adheres to established standards for organizational quality and permanent land conservation; and

Permanence – by promising that the land being preserved is forever.

Accreditation fosters self-examination of a land trust's operations and subjects them to review by an independent commission. Accreditation is designed to help land trusts streamline operations; become more effective in land conservation; and serve as a vehicle to give the land trust enhanced credibility and respect. To achieve accreditation, the land trust must document adherence to the "Land Trust Standards and Practices."

The first group of land trusts received accreditation in 2008 at the annual LTA Rally. Thirty-eight land trusts from the Coastal Mountains Land Trust in Maine to the Central Valley Farmland Trust in California earned their accreditation after a rigorous application and review process. The Hudson Highlands Land Trust (NY) viewed accreditation as "an objective affirmation that HHLT meets national standards for excellence, upholds the public trust, and ensures that our conservation efforts are permanent." The Brandywine Conservancy (PA) states that they "will display the accreditation seal to reflect our commitment to excellence and the highest professional standards."

The ACLT Board recently adopted the new Five-Year Plan for 2009-2013. One of the priority actions under "Maintain and enhance good governance practices," is to "Achieve Land Trust Alliance Accreditation." That this will serve ACLT well is attested to by the experience of other land trusts that have attained accreditation. It will help assure that ACLT will maintain effective operations and the confidence of those with a stake in ACLT's future, including donors.

The Role of Standards and Practices – Part of LTA's mission is to provide operational guidance to member land trusts. One of their most important documents is the "Land Trust Standards and Practices." It is a compilation of 12 distinct "standards" supported by 88 "practices." The first seven standards focus on organizational strength. They address: 1) Mission; 2) Compliance with Laws; 3) Board Accountability; 4) Conflicts of Interest; 5) Fundraising; 6) Financial and Asset Management; and 7) Volunteers, Staff and Consultants. The rest focus on land transactions and address: 8) Evaluating and Selecting Conservation Projects; 9) Ensuring Sound Transactions; 10) Tax Benefits; 11) Conservation Easement Stewardship; and 12) Fee Land Stewardship. Collectively these are

characterized as “the ethical and technical guidelines for the responsible operation of a land trust.”

Two examples give a flavor of Standards and Practices:

The first standard is **Mission**: “The land trust has a clear mission that serves the public interest and all programs support that mission.” One of the four practices that support the standard is **Planning and Evaluation**: “The land trust regularly establishes strategic goals for implementing its mission and routinely evaluates programs, goals and activities to be sure they are consistent with the mission.”

The twelfth standard is **Fee Land Stewardship**: “The land trust has a program of responsible stewardship for the land it holds in fee for conservation purposes.” One of the nine practices that support the standard is **Land Management**: “The land trust inventories the natural and cultural features of each property prior to developing a management plan that identifies its conservation goals for the property and how it plans to achieve them. Permitted activities are compatible with the conservation goals, stewardship principles and public benefit mission of the organization. Permitted activities occur only when the activity poses no significant threat to the important conservation values, reduces threats or restores ecological processes, and/or advances learning and demonstration properties.”

Accreditation is based on evaluation of how well the land trust adheres to 37 “indicator” practices selected from the 88 total practices in Standards and Practices, including the two just cited.

The Mechanics of Accreditation - The accreditation process is run by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of LTA. Land trusts applying for accreditation must submit significant documentation demonstrating its commitment to Standards and Practices by addressing how well it adheres to 37 “indicator” practices. These indicator practices were chosen to assess: 1) Responsible governance of the organization; 2) Protection of the public interest with sound and sustainable land transactions and stewardship; 3) Ethical operations; 4) Accountability to donors and the public; and 5) Compliance with all applicable laws.

Once the land trust feels it is ready for accreditation, it can proceed with the formal process which begins with registration of intent to seek accreditation, followed by a pre-application, a list of land conservation projects and a

public notice. The process is designed to be open and public and the Commission is actively interested in receiving comments from the public about the applicant. ACLT will, at a minimum, provide regular updates in the newsletter and on the web site. The Commission suggests additional means of notification such as emails, targeted letters, meetings and press releases.

The heart of the application process is the completion of a detailed questionnaire that, together with various attachments, documents the land trust’s adherence to the 37 indicator practices. For the **Planning and Evaluation** practice cited above, the questionnaire requires: 1) attaching the latest strategic plan; and 2) responding to: “Describe how your organization establishes its strategic goals and evaluates its programs, goals and activities.” For the **Land Management** practice, the applicant must: 1) submit documentation of how the organization approaches land management; and 2) respond to four questions, including, “Describe the process your organization uses to develop management plans or management summaries for every property it holds in fee, including who is involved and when the information is prepared.”

Application fees are also required. They are based on the land trust’s annual operating expenses. For ACLT, the application fee for 2009 would be \$4,750. This is intended to help defray the Commission’s expenses in reviewing and processing the application.

The Commission is limited in the number of applications it can process at a given time. In 2009, it anticipates accepting 102 applications. There will be three rounds of applications. There is a great deal of preparatory work involved in preparing for the process. Based on the anticipated workload, it is likely that the ACLT Board will decide on a late 2009 or 2010 application round later this year.

Ted Graham
President, ACLT

Around ACLT

ACLT's Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

On October 24, 2008, the ACLT staff hosted a dinner celebration in honor of all our hard working, dedicated volunteers. Luckily, the weather cooperated and we were able to hold the event outdoors under a large tent. Many of our volunteers enjoyed catching up with one another while dining on a barbeque buffet, prepared by Patrice Bourne, a private caterer and chef. The food was made primarily from locally grown ingredients and was quite tasty. Approximately 75 volunteers attended the event.

2008 Outstanding Volunteers

We cannot thank all our volunteers enough for their time and dedication to further the mission of ACLT. Each and every one of you makes a significant impact on this organization which helps us to successfully promote, preserve, and protect the land we hold in trust for future generations.

This past year specifically, we had five extraordinary individuals who volunteered 100+ hours for ACLT! These five volunteers are as follows, including the respective programs each is involved in:

Paul Berry - Board of Directors Treasurer, Budget and Finance Committee, Personnel Committee, and Administration and Fundraising Committee.

Ed Haack - Weed Whacking Wednesdays, Vine Vindicators, Trail Maintenance Day, Earth Day, Cemetery Crew, Canoe Guide, Arboretum Work Day, and the Greens Sale.

Ginny Murphy - Membership Coordinator, Outreach and Membership Committee, Water Quality Monitoring, Mowing, Earth Day, Family Day, and the Greens Sale.

Arnie Petty - Weed Whacking Wednesdays, Vine Vindicators, Trail & Road Clearing, and Tool Maintenance.

Ken Romney - Land Management Committee, Weed Whacking Wednesdays, Vine Vindicators, Trail & Road Clearing, Equipment Maintenance, Mowing, Earth Day, Family Day, and the Greens Sale and Hayride.

THANK YOU!!!

ACLT Board of Directors & Staff

Meet ACLT's New Community Relations Coordinator

Joy Woppert Introduces herself ...

Hello, ACLT Board of Directors, members, neighbors, and volunteers! I am truly excited to be on board in helping further the ACLT mission!

I grew up in Harford County and received my bachelor's degree from Washington College in Chestertown, MD in art and secondary education. While I decided not to pursue a teaching career, it has left me with an invaluable experience that has taught me so many things. The knowledge I gained from the art and education programs are still prevalent in my everyday life—I just found a non-traditional way to employ it.

After my junior year, I had the opportunity to attend a summer-long program at Georgetown University through the Fund for American Studies. I participated in the Institute of Philanthropy and Voluntary Services. It was there that I gained an inside look into the nonprofit world and it forever changed my career path. That summer allowed me to intern at a local nonprofit in D.C. while taking classes in ethics, democracy, and the fundamentals of nonprofits. While I grew up very service-minded and thoroughly enjoyed volunteering in my community, I never thought I could have a career doing such rewarding work everyday.

To further my quest to find something I was truly passionate about, I joined a nonprofit called Bike and Build for the summer of 2007. Their mission is to end poverty housing by gathering a group of young adults to raise money and awareness for the cause—while cycling 4,000 miles across the United States. Each group stops along the way to give presentations and volunteer at local affordable housing build sites. Then, at the end of the



trip, the money raised is presented to a deserving affordable housing organization of our choice through a grant program. What a mountaintop experience!

After my cross-country adventure, I was welcomed

home by my parents to the task of finding the real world (my Dad's way of saying "Get a job!"). In October of 2007, I moved to St. Mary's County and was hired as Patuxent Habitat for Humanity's Community Relations Coordinator through the AmeriCorps program. Looking back on my year-term with PHFH, it truly built the foundation for my current position at ACLT. I was able to get experience in practically every part of their organization from website management, event planning, fundraising, volunteer coordination, nonprofit systems and databases, marketing, and the beloved bulk mailings.

I currently live in Lusby with my fiancé John and his 2 year old son, LJ. We love the outdoors and are excited to go on hikes and canoe trips with ACLT. I hope that I can

spread my appreciation and enthusiasm for this beautiful area to many more people. In these times of economic downturn, when people's priorities are shifting, we need to continue, even more vigilantly, to protect these lands for generations to come.

I joined ACLT at the beginning of December and feel privileged to be able to work everyday with such a dedicated group of people—it could not be a more perfect fit for me! When Kady left at the end of January, I became your fulltime Community Relations Coordinator. I have greatly enjoyed getting to know most of you at the various events/meetings and look forward to meeting the rest of you in the coming year!

ACLT's 2008 Greens Sale and Beach Hayride

Many enthusiastic volunteers gathered at Warrior's Rest on Friday, December 12th to help us prepare for the Greens Sale and Beach Hayride the following day. Ken Romney, Gil Murphy, Jane Manning, Mark Delfs and Mark Edmondson braved the wind and freezing temperatures to trim greens from the arboretum to be used for wreaths, garlands and swags. Sandra Loew, Barbara and Stan Benning, Mary Ellen Romney, Seona deGennaro, Marilyn deGennaro, Karen and Glenn Edgecombe, Marcia Van Gemert, Ed Haack, and Joy Woppert kept warm by Liz Stoffel's wood stove while making many beautiful wreaths and garlands. All volunteers took a mid-day break to enjoy lunch followed by cookies, cider and coffee.

On the morning of the Greens Sale, Steve and Betty Howerton, Mike Howerton and Ray Saah arrived bright and early to help us with set-up and stayed through the end of the day to help clean up. Many thanks to our retail volunteers, including Stan & Barbara Benning, Katie Hanlon, Elise Schryver, Ginny Murphy and Rita Amtmann, who stood out in the chilly weather to sell wreaths, garlands, swags and ACLT apparel. Special thanks also to Ken Romney for making numerous hayride trips down to the beach—it was quite a hit with the kids (and even the grown-ups)!

Kady Waterhouse
Outreach & Communications
Coordinator
(through Jan. 31, 2009)

Top: Sales table. Left to right Barbara Benning, Elise Schryver, Katie Hanlon and Karen Edgecombe.

Bottom: Off to the beach. Ken Romney pulls the hay wagon.



Letter to the Editor

Power Line Vegetation Management Clarification

I read with interest both the article and letter to the editor in the Fall 2008 ACLT Newsletter that addressed right-of-way management practices. BGE's right-of-way management practices were noted and it was implied that the practices, especially herbicide utilization, were inconsistent with promoting shrub habitat in the 'Wire Zone–Border Zone' model referenced in the article. In reality, the 'Wire Zone–Border Zone' technique almost exclusively relies upon herbicides to effect the desired outcomes. Regarding the BGE work referenced in the article, BGE took the first step to convert the site from tall-growing plants to early successional 'Wire Zone–Border Zone' habitat by removing the tall growing plants and treating the undesirable regrowth with herbicides.

Consistent with the Penn State 'Wire Zone–Border Zone' model, herbicides will be used to treat any tall-growing plant regrowth while leaving the desirable low-growing plants. Over time, the desirable plants will pro-

vide cultural control and the herbicide usage will be greatly diminished. Mowing can play a role in this model if carefully prescribed in concert with the other vegetation management methods.

BGE recognizes the potential benefits associated with utility right-of-way management and will be pleased to work with the American Chestnut Land Trust to address habitat development on the right-of-way adjacent to the Trust lands.

Sincerely,
William T. Rees, Jr.
Forestry Management–Director
Baltimore Gas and Electric Company

[Editors' note: We have already been in communication and look forward to working with BGE Forestry Management to improve the shrub/scrub habitat on the BGE right of way adjacent to ACLT owned and managed properties.]



Double Oak Farm field November 2008. Photo by David Farr

Land Manager's Corner

Local Foods – Sustaining the Chesapeake

I am reporting, once again, on some of my favorite subjects: Food, Farming, and Sustainability. Although I call myself a failed organic farmer with a “black thumb” rather than a “green thumb,” I try to stay in touch with the farming community since they provide the fresh local foods I love. It is an almost annual ritual for me to attend the Future Harvest/CASA (Chesapeake Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture) conference every January (<http://www.futureharvestcasa.org/>). This year, ACLT sent me to learn more about options for putting our former tobacco fields back into agricultural production.



The staff and board have been exploring the idea of starting a CSA, Community Supported Agriculture program (sometimes the S stands for Shares or Subscription), which is a partnership between the farmer/producer and the consumer/member. The consumer pays the farmer before he/she plants in the late winter or early spring and receives fresh produce every week in late spring and summer. Some CSAs in our area have fall and even winter shares because of our longer growing seasons. This method of farming does not leave the farmer with the total burden—any crop losses are shared with the consumer. The members of the CSA are invested in the farmer's success. The farmer strives to provide a variety of produce which almost always means a successful harvest (barring any major weather crisis). Most CSAs charge higher than wholesale prices but lower than retail (about 20% less), which is a great savings over going to the grocery store, plus you know exactly where your food is coming from. CSAs lower each member's “carbon foot-

print” because the deliveries are a reasonable distance from the farm (not the hundreds of miles food travels to the grocery store) and most CSA farms are not large factory operations that depend heavily on petroleum-based products to achieve their yields.

Future Harvest has a variety of workshops, some that help teach better farming practices (soil care and grazing practices), some that talk about new marketing ideas, some workshops that help new farmers avoid pitfalls (the lessons learned) and some workshops are just inspiring. It is a great exchange of ideas. It is a place to meet aspiring farmers and farmers who have experience. I even met some of the members of our Calvert Eats Local group which meet once-a-month at the Prince Frederick Library. <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=35526428369>

This year I had the privilege of attending two workshops that friends of mine were leading—both started their farming ventures within the last few years. One, the owner of Clark's Elioak Farm (Howard County), a petting farm that offers hay rides, pony rides, pumpkin patches and birthday parties, had so many great marketing ideas. Her agri-tourism venture has just grown and grown. Another is a writer friend who inherited a 4th share of her father's White Rose Farm in Carroll County—she used available preservation funding to buy out her siblings who wanted to sell the farm. She has created a beautiful farm—with vegetables, flowers, pigs and fowl. She has learned that she does not like taking her produce to farmer's markets so she is converting to a CSA operation.

I also attended a workshop that created a huge buzz amongst even the most well-established vegetable farmers.

ACLT is seeking volunteers interested in developing a business plan for a future CSA/farming venture.

Please contact Karen Edgecombe
410-414-3400
kedgecombe@actweb.org

The talk “Producing Nutrient Dense Food” was given by a young Amish man who felt that food was medicine (nutritious food was important to having a healthy body). He discussed the chemical and photosynthesis processes within a plant that made plants create complete proteins. There are about 32 nutrients plants need that cannot be found in typical chemical fertilizers many farmers use. Plants that do not have these nutrients to complete their processes exude nitrogen and are susceptible to insect invasion. Healthy plants that create complete proteins could not be digested by insects (in fact, the food would ferment in the insects’ digestive systems and kill them). He provided the attendees with a method for testing the health of their plants during the growing season to be able to adjust the nutrient levels enough to avoid having to spray insecticides and to create plants that are nutrient-dense, high-protein foods.

Besides the informative workshops, the Future Harvest Conference is a great place to meet dedicated people who provide good things to eat. The Future Harvest conference features local foods grown and processed by real people. I feasted on lovely Maryland goat cheese, wine, salads, potatoes, vegetables and meats. I met the farmers that produced them and saw the pride they had for their efforts. When was the last time you talked to the farmer in your grocery store?

Liz Stoffel
ACLT Land Manager



American Chestnut Land Trust Calendar of Events – 2009

| | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| February | 21 | Winter Hike at Double Oak Farm (1:30-3:30 p.m.) |
| | 28 | Vine Vindicator Work Day (9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon) |
| March | 14 | Hiking Trail Maintenance Day (9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon) |
| | 28 | Vine Vindicator Work Day (9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon) |
| | 29 | Barn Work Day (9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon) |
| April | 4 | Canoe Guide Training (9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.) |
| | 18 | Spring Guided Hike on Gravatt East (9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.) |
| | 25 | Earth Day (8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon) |
| | 25 | Guided Canoe Trip (3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.) |
| | 26 | Barn Work Day (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon) |
| May | 3 | Parkers Creek Celebration at Double Oak Farm (1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.) |
| | 9 | Guided Canoe Trip (3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.) |
| | 16 | Vine Vindicator Work Day (9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon) |
| | 30 | Parkers Creek to Flag Ponds Paddle (8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.) |
| | 31 | Guided Canoe Trip (9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon) |
| June | 20 | Guided Canoe Trip (1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.) |
| | 27 | Vine Vindicator Work Day (9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon) |
| July | 18 | Guided Canoe Trip (11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.) |
| | 25 | Vine Vindicator Work Day (9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon) |
| | 25 | Barn Work Day (9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon) |
| August | 15 | Vine Vindicator Training (afternoon) |
| | 30 | Guided Canoe Trip (11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.) |
| September | 12 | Holly Arboretum Work Day at Warrior’s Rest (9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon) |
| | 13 | Guided Canoe Trip (10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.) |
| | 19 | Vine Vindicator Work Day (9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon) |
| | 26 | Chili Cook-Off & Silent Auction |
| October | 3 | Harvest Moon Guided Canoe Trip (3:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.) |
| | 10-11 | Patuxent River Appreciation Days |
| | 10-15 | LTA Rally |
| | 23 | Volunteer Appreciation Dinner (6:30-9:00 p.m.) |
| | 24 | Vine Vindicator Work Day (9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon) |
| 25 | Barn Work Day (9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.) | |
| November | 1 | Fall Foliage Hike at Double Oak (9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon) |
| December | 5 | Arboretum Work Day at Warrior’s Rest (9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon) |
| | 12 | Greens Sale & Beach Hayride (11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.) |

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

maintain and enhance existing good governance practices while achieving recognition through **accreditation by the Land Trust Alliance** (see Ted Graham's "From the President's Desk" article).

Among the other important initiatives adopted in the new Five-Year Plan were: 1) planning, design and implementation of a **greenway/trail stretching all the way from the Prince Frederick Town Center to the Chesapeake Bay**; 2) develop a business plan to study the feasibility of starting a **community supported agriculture (CSA)** to put fallow agricultural fields back into production and continue the tradition of farming while providing another avenue for residents to connect with the land through ACLT (see Liz Stoffel's "Land Manager's Corner" article); and 3) continue to solicit assistance for the development of an ecosystem needs assessment of all of the lands and waters under ACLT management with the goal of developing a **single land management plan that takes an ecosystem-wide approach** to replace the individual forest management plans for each parcel currently used.

Land Preservation

- ACLT actively preserves and protects over 3,000 acres—almost one-third (910 acres) are owned by ACLT, almost two-thirds (1,780 acres) are owned by Maryland DNR, and ACLT holds conservation easements on an additional 360 acres that are privately owned.
- In 2008, ACLT monitored the four conservation easements that it holds.
- ACLT continues to work with the state of Maryland, Calvert County and other local land trusts on future land preservation projects.

Sustainable Public Access Highlights

- ACLT sponsored 3 guided hikes and 9 guided canoe trips on Parkers Creek.
- More than 550 people visited the Warrior's Rest Sanctuary that ACLT manages for Maryland DNR either through ACLT's public guided canoe trips or by special access permit for educational and research purposes.
- Almost 3,000 visitors signed in to hike ACLT's 15 miles of public hiking trails in 2008—a 25% increase over 2007 visitor sign ins.

Land Management

- In 2008, ACLT rebuilt the doors and restored most of the exterior siding on the Percy Howard barn near the

south side trailhead and secured the Lemuel Wallace house.

- Volunteers in ACLT's two invasive species control programs donated 1,000 hours valued at \$15,500 as we continued the work of clearing non-native invasive plants including oriental bittersweet, garlic mustard, and bamboo to restore habitat.
- ACLT now has a decade of data from our water quality monitoring program. A volunteer has analyzed the data and further interpretation is being developed for display on our website.

Membership and Outreach

- In January 2008, the Board of Directors approved a two year membership campaign to increase membership by 25%. By the end of 2008, our membership had grown to 643 households, including 85 new members who joined ACLT in 2008.
- Thanks to our volunteer website designers, Dave and Ellen Farr, ACLT developed a beautiful new website in 2008 including more informative sections on our mission, our Board of Directors and staff, our land preservation and land management programs, and the natural and cultural resources that we protect. Online donations can now be made through our website.
- We hosted seven major events including our Annual Membership Meeting, Hiking Trail Maintenance Day, the one-woman play "A Sense of Wonder," Earth Day, Family Day, the 13th Annual Silent Auction & Celebration, and the Greens Sale and Beach Hayride.

Administration and Fundraising

- Our auditors provided ACLT with a clean, unqualified opinion on our 2007 finances.
- We received a one-time donation to our Land Management Endowment from the Spring Creek Foundation, which closed its doors on December 31, 2007.
- ACLT continued its strong tradition of strategic long-range planning.

As always, ACLT is grateful for the support of our members and volunteers without whom *none* of this would be possible!

Karen H. Edgecombe
Executive Director

The Chili Cook-Off is Back!!

Join ACLT for the Chili Cook-off & Silent Auction

September 26, 2009

Look for more details in the Spring newsletter!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT ...

New Members

ACLT would like to welcome the following new members since the Fall 2008 newsletter:

Mr. Don Baier
Mr. Scott Collinson
Miss Emily Gibson
Mr. Michael M. Hash
Mr. & Mrs. J. Thomas Kelly
Mr. Kevin McDade
Mr. Gregory Mitsoff
Mr. Herbert H. Pontow
Mr. Wayne Ragan
Ms. Lynn T. Simarski
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Waterhouse
Mr. Buddy Whetzel
Mr. Charlie Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Zuza

Memorial Contributions

Thank you to the following members who made a memorial contribution since our last newsletter:

In memory of **Albert Stoffel**, father of ACLT's Land Manager, Liz Stoffel:
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Dennett

In memory of **Dr. William Haile** who was a Sustaining Member, longtime supporter and volunteer:

Mr. & Mrs. George Barnes and Zoe
Ms. Joy Bartholomew
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Berry
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Blayney
Col. Daniel & Dr. Christina Boesz
Dr. & Mrs. Walter R. Boynton
Mr. & Mrs. McGuire Boyd
Ms. Denise Breitburg & Mr. Mark Smith
Mr. & Mrs. George S. Brown
Mr. Nicholas Buess
Dr. Marie Bundy
Dr. Andrea Clarke
Ms. Kathy Daniel
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Dawley
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Dennett
Mrs. Elaine C. Dunkle & Mr. Peter Cochran
Ms. Sarah Downey
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Dwan, Jr.
Dr. & Mrs. Glenn Edgcombe
Ms. Isa Engleberg & Mr. Allan Kennedy
Mr. We-Ming (Terry) Fan
Solange Filoso
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Fleming
Ms. Magda Freeman
Dr. Edward Graham
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Griffin
Mr. Edward Wright Haile
Mr. & Mrs. John Haile
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